

July 2006

NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Highway Patrol Division

Lieutenant Jerry Seevers

Overview

The members of the Northern Command worked very hard in the month of July to accomplish our mission. Troopers worked many hours of overtime to conduct extra DUI patrols, DUI checkpoints, crash investigations and training. Despite reductions in available troopers to work active patrols, crashes went down and enforcement went up.

Total crashes dropped by 3.9% from last month and an impressive 17.0% from last year. Property damage crashes dropped by 1.9% last month and 21.2% from last year. Injury crashes dropped by 6.7% from last month and 7.4% from last year. Fatal crashes dropped by 25% from last month and 50% from last year. This was despite a four-day span in which all 3 fatal crashes occurred. All 3 of the people killed were not restrained. However, 1 was a motorcycle rider.

The Command continues to adapt and adjust traffic enforcement and patrol presence as the crash data indicates. As traffic congestion has eased with the reduction of construction zones, so have the crash locations and occurrence rates.

Enforcement efforts by the Northern Command was very solid this month. Total violations increased by 10.4% from last month and 2.6% from last year, despite having fewer troopers on the road. The most impressive gain was in DUI arrests. This area increased by 60.8% from last month and 56.8% from last year. As a result of these outstanding efforts, DUI crashes were reduced by more than 28% for both years.

Content:

Crash Analysis

Field Enforcement

Traffic

Commercial

Air Operations

Administrative Services

Front Office

Communications

Public Information

Published

08-07-2006

NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	July 2006	July 05	% Change	Jun-06	% Change
Total Crashes	341	411	-17.0%	355	-3.9%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	212	269	-21.2%	216	-1.9%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	126	136	-7.4%	135	-6.7%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	3	6	-50.0%	4	-25.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	16	21	-23.8%	24	-33.3%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	3	6	-50.0%	4	-25.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1	0	100.0%	1	0.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1	0	100.0%	1	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	0	2	-200.0%	0	0.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0	0	0.0%	1	-100.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	1	3	-66.7%	1	0.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	21	31	-32.3%	31	-32.3%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	15	24	-37.5%	26	-42.3%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	6	6	0.0%	5	20.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0	1	-100.0%	0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.9%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 4.4%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 66.7%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 6.2%

CRASH ANALYSIS:

Total crashes dropped by 3.9% from last month and an impressive 17.0% from last year. Property damage crashes dropped by 1.9% last month and 21.2% from last year. Injury crashes dropped by 6.7% from last month and 7.4% from last year. Fatal crashes dropped by 25% from last month and 50% from last year. This was despite a four-day span in which all 3 fatal crashes occurred. All 3 of the people killed were not restrained. However, 1 was a motorcycle rider.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	July 06		July 05	% Change		Jun-06	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	16		21	-23.8%		23	-30.4%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	129		81	59.3%		79	63.3%
Other Arrests	549		420	30.7%		448	22.5%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	257		189	36.0%		202	27.2%
Speed violations	2156		2094	3.0%		1878	14.8%
Hazardous moving violations	697		651	7.1%		598	16.6%
Occupant restraint violations *	273		308	-11.4%		345	-20.9%
Total violations [above violations included]	5422		5218	3.9%		4849	11.8%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	63		52	21.2%		42	50.0%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	94		47	100.0%		49	91.8%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	588		1119	-47.5%		662	-11.2%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	5		1	400.0%		4	25.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	252		450	-44.0%		220	14.5%
Total safety violations -- repair order	2181		3543	-38.4%		2303	-5.3%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	103		197	-47.7%		94	9.6%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	71		102	-30.4%		62	14.5%
Total school buses inspected	59		308	-80.8%		24	145.8%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	1		127	-99.2%		4	-75.0%
Total trucks weighed	210		209	0.5%		693	-69.7%
Total overweight citations	40		39	2.6%		40	0.0%
Total dyed fuel inspections	361		820	-56.0%		307	17.6%
Total dyed fuel citations	1		7	-85.7%		5	-80.0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

** Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

Enforcement efforts by the Northern Command was very solid this month. Total violations increased by 10.4% from last month and 2.6% from last year, despite having fewer troopers on the road. The most impressive gain was in DUI arrests. This area increased by 60.8% from last month and 56.8% from last year. DUI crashes were reduced by more than 28% for both years.

RENO URBAN TRAFFIC

The Reno Urban area crash statistics continue to point toward a downturn trend in total crashes over last year. This month's 192 was 14% less than July of last year. No specific crash trends can be identified; however, the completion of the bulk of the urban road construction projects can be a contributing factor to the decline in crashes over last year.

Total enforcement violations remained relatively unchanged over the same period last year but increased by 65 over last month. The urban troopers have been diligently pursuing impaired drivers and their efforts resulted in a staggering 112% increase over last month and more than 68% over the same period last year. Total arrests were also up by more than 55%. The Urban troopers are to be commended for their hard work and diligent efforts, despite staffing shortages.

CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN

The Carson/Tahoe/Minden District showed a 46% average decrease in all accident areas, with the exception of DUI Crashes that increased from three (3) to six (6), compared to the same period last year.

For the month of July, CTM investigated three (3) level one crashes; SIRT is assisting investigation of these crashes. All three (3) crash investigations are being handled by day shift. On July 3, troopers responded to an injury accident on US 395 near Church St. in Gardnerville. The passenger was flown to Washoe Medical Center for internal injuries. It was later determined his injuries were in fact not related to the accident but to surgery he had just received a few days prior. On July 5, troopers responded to an injury accident on SR 207 west of SR 206. The accident was a head-on collision and believed to be alcohol related. Additionally, CTM troopers are handling a motorcycle accident on US 50 near CC 3.

Total violations have increased comparatively to last year as well as last month. With the exception of a 2% decrease in Hazardous Moving Violations, all enforcement activity is up on average 43.5% compared to last year for the CTM District. A decrease is noted comparatively to last month for enforcement in DUI arrests and crashes, DUI arrest prior to crashes, Other arrests, Total person arrested. In contrast, an increase is noted in Speed, Hazardous moving and Occupant restraint violations by an average of 29.3%.

Day shift conducted two (2) directed enforcement assignments as well as utilized the ADAPT vehicle from July 3, to the 10. In addition to directed enforcement, both Day and Swing shift utilized the aircraft on three (3) separate dates.

On July 10, 2006, CTM picked up a trooper from DPS Parole and Probation. The trooper is currently attending Accident Investigation and EVOC. The trooper will attend PSTO starting August 7 to November 17, 2006. With the incoming transfer, this leaves the CTM District down one (1) trooper.

FERNLEY/FALLON

The Fernley/Fallon District reports a 15.6% decrease in total crashes compared to last year. Property damage crashes decreased 24.4% compared to last year and decreased 27.9% compared to last month. Injury crashes decreased 4.8% compared to last year. Fatal crashes increased this month from two last year, to three this year. Commercial vehicle crashes decreased 33.3% compared to last year and decreased 57.1% compared to last month.

The Fernley/Fallon District's field enforcement efforts decreased 15.1% compared to last year. DUI arrests from crashes were down 80% compared to last year. The decreases in overall enforcement statistics are reflective of the one vacancy and the one position on extended FMLA in the Fernley office. The reduction of activity in enforcement statistics will most likely continue to occur until the vacancy can be filled, and the on-leave FMLA employee returns from leave.

Fortunately even with the lower enforcement numbers, crashes went down. The reduction in crashes can be attributed to very active previous months of enforcement efforts, resulting in driver attention and voluntary compliance.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section currently has 22 assigned troopers. However, during the month of July, the commercial staffing levels were down by three. One trooper was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and transferred to the Parole and Probation Division. The second trooper was on FMLA recovering from back surgery and the third trooper was on 4800 time recovering from a work related knee injury. In addition to the decrease in manpower, leave time accounted for 30.66% of the total time. In July, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section continued with its mandatory re-certification training. The time spent in training and instructing classes accounted for approximately 17.20% of the total time in July.

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section will meet or exceed the goals and objectives as stated in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan. At the end of July 2006, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section was ahead in its year-to-date goals in Level I/II/III inspections, Level II/III enforcement inspections, interstate/secondary roadway weight enforcement and compliance reviews. July is the tenth month of the Federal Fiscal Year and the first month in the forth quarter. The year to date goal achievements percentage should be at 83.33%.

The Northern Command has achieved 104.89% of its Level I inspections, 123.81% of its Level II/III inspections, 319.49% of its Level II/III enforcement inspections, and 91.66% of trucks weighed on interstate highways. The region is still slightly behind in hazardous materials and motor coach Level II/III inspections. During the month of July, the Commercial Enforcement dayshift personnel targeted hazardous material vehicles and will continue to place enforcement efforts towards these deficiencies.

In July, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section handled two property damage crashes. None of the crashes involved a commercial motor vehicle. The commercial section also assisted the traffic division with 16 other crashes. Out of 16 other crashes, six involved a commercial motor vehicle.

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section completed four, of the required six, Southern Command, Strike-Force (STEP) program. The Northern Command has two deployments remaining and they are scheduled in September.

The Commercial Enforcement Section completed three "Strike Force" operations that targeted high commercial motor vehicle collision areas. During these three operations, commercial enforcement personnel completed 58 inspections, discovered 54 moving violations and 218 mechanical repair orders. In addition, 13 drivers and/or vehicles were placed out-of-service.

In August, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section is scheduled to conduct a joint check site operation with the California Highway Patrol at South Lake Tahoe. Also in August, the Commercial Enforcement Section will be participating in two

major events. The first event is Truckerfest, which will be held in Reno during the first week of August. The second event is the NAIC inspector competition that will be held in New Orleans. Trooper Stone will be representing the Northern Command Enforcement section in this competition.

In August, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section will be spending most of the month recertifying troopers in their yearly Division required training. These classes will include Defensive Tactics, 1st responder and ERG/BBP. In addition to the mandatory training, the troopers will also be instructed in new classes such as Electronic Taser and Public Safety Trainer Officer (PSTO).

AIR OPERATIONS

The Northern Command aircraft flew a total of 68.3 hours during July. Of the total, 52 hours, or 76% of the flight time, was spent on airborne speed enforcement activities. 11% of the flight time was utilized transporting prisoners, and 4% was spent on pilot training.

15 scheduled speed enforcement missions were conducted during the month. A total of 715 enforcement actions were taken; this is a significant increase, 121%, over the prior year. During an enforcement mission at the Mustang site, a motorist was clocked at 117 mph. This was a record high speed for the year; a trooper had no difficulty apprehending the violator on his police motorcycle. During our speed missions, 24 hazardous moving citations were issued, two vehicles were impounded and one arrest was made.

Four in state prisoner transports were conducted during the month.

Timing marks have been repainted at the following sites: Mustang, Wadsworth, Derby Dam and East Fernley. The marks will be recertified during August.

New enforcement marks at Cradlebaugh Bridge have been surveyed and are scheduled to be painted in August.

An IFR currency check was accomplished in Reno for the Southern Command pilot.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	July 06	July 05	% Change	June 06	% Change
FRONT OFFICE	365	432	-15.51%	360	+1.39%
Accident Reports Processed	232	201	+15.42%	260	-10.77%
Arrest Reports Processed	19	17	-52.94%	21	-9.52%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	15	24	-37.50%	18	-16.67%
Office Accident Reports Taken	365	432	-15.51%	360	+1.39%
COURT / WARRANT					
Warrants Received	539	574	-6.1%	566	-4.8%
Warrants Entered	186	258	-27.9%	450	-58.7%
Warrants Cleared	642	670	-4.2%	636	0.9%
Warrants Validated	276	175	57.7%	340	-18.8%
Citations Processed	3485	3932	-11.37%	3868	-9.90%
COMMUNICATION CENTER					
Radio Transmissions	113403	107269	5.72%	169428	-33.07%
CAD incidents	13994	13085	6.95%	21608	-35.24%

FRONT OFFICE

Two AAI positions continue to assist the Court Warrants section. Overtime utilized by the records section is to assist with the warrant entry backlog (105), second-check backlog (61+), and archiving the 2001 DUI and fatal accident reports. A front office AAI is still acting as trainer to the two new warrants clerks. In addition, she was responsible for 15 court runs, processing 277 subpoenas, 139 citations for court, and 228 pieces of transport and miscellaneous court paperwork. There were 32 court call-offs this month.

An AAI was quickly trained to perform backup evidence duties while the AAI was on leave. The film clerk processed 125 Veripic cases this period, as well as 14 digital photo requests and 3 35mm requests. Sick leave increased this period by 51%, with compensatory leave decreasing by 60%. Annual leave significantly increased as it usually does during the summer months. Paid overtime increased by 30% because of the items stated above.

Office reports taken have decreased to 8 for the month. Accident reports taken by troopers increased by 1.4% this period. Arrest reports decreased 10.7%. Incident reports taken by officers decreased by 62%. Citations issued and processed also decreased by 9.9%.

COURT WARRANTS

Court warrants personnel are still in training. 539 warrants were received and 186 were entered. With the combining of Warrants and Communications, a new policy has been created with Communications aiding with the entry and checking of warrants. It is expected that this will improve entry amounts and packing of warrant records.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Northern Command Communication center is down 3 PSD I positions. We are awaiting background checks to attempt to fill them. One PSD I has begun training.

Total work hours lost increased by 41.93% since last month, primarily due to a decrease in annual and comp leave and a lower number of personnel to cover them. It increased by 97.94% from the previous year due to an increase in annual leave.

Compensatory overtime increased by 6.12% when compared to last month. Overtime as a whole increased by 31.31% when compared to the same period last year and increased by 45.95% when compared to last month. The increases are due to the increased number of vacancies in the Center as well as increased leave taken. The coverage of annual leave accounted for 46.56% of paid overtime and 10.26% of comp overtime. The remainder was primarily covering training and vacant positions.

Radio transmissions decreased by 4.58% over this period last year and decreased 0.58% since last month. CAD incidents have decreased by 2.71% over last year and increased 7.55% since last month. These fluctuations appear to be minimal and due to the normal increases and decreases in calls for service.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

We began the month of July by promoting a safety awareness campaign for the anticipated large volumes of traffic sharing the highways for the 4 day Independence Day holiday weekend. Numerous live and taped radio and television interviews were accomplished reminding motorists to refrain from consuming alcohol before driving, driving extra safely and cautiously due to increased highway traffic, and the importance of occupant restraints was strongly emphasized. Additionally, the community was informed of 3 DUI check points that were conducted in the Reno/Sparks area during the weekend.

5 live traffic reports are still being completed each workday in addition to the traffic reports on 94.5 FM radio. Our Division of the Department of Public Safety was requested to assist the Nevada Air National Guard with a recruitment video for the military. The Highway Patrol Division received a spot in the commercial at no cost to the department.

As we close out the month of July, we look forward to a number of events in August to include the annual Hot August Nights weeklong event, attending the Nevada State Fair, as well as hosting a presentation to our youth from the personnel of Driver's Edge. Our division continues to keep the community apprised of safety events as well as report any serious accident and incidents, including temporary road closures, in a timely and professional manner.

Department of Public Safety
Highway Patrol Division
Northern Command

357 Hammill Lane
Reno, Nevada 89511
(775) 688-2500

Captain Jacquelyn Sandage
Administration

Captain Scott Jackson
Operations

Lieutenant Jerry Seevers
Administration

Lieutenant Roger Vind
Fernley/Fallon

Lieutenant John Stewart
Reno Urban

Lieutenant William Bainter
Commercial/SIRT

Lieutenant Charlie Powell
Carson City/Minden/Lake Tahoe